

Message Text

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FROM RFA EUROPE

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SUBJECT: PROPOSED EXTENDED FISHERY ZONES FOR THE FAEROES AND
GREENLAND

REF: A. COPENHAGEN 2394, B. COPENHAGEN A-27, 3/26/76.

SUMMARY: A DRAFT LAW TO EXTEND THE FISHERIES ZONES OF
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THE FAEROES AND GREENLAND IS BEING CIRCULATED TO

CONCERNED DANISH MINISTRIES PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION BY THE FOLKETING. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL DECLARE A 200-MILE FISHERY ZONE FOR THE FAEROES BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1977, IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURES FROM ITS INHABITANTS. EXTENSION OF THE GREENLAND FISHERIES ZONE TO 200 MILES WILL BE DONE IN COORDINATION WITH THE EC, BUT THERE ARE GOOD PROSPECTS THAT GREENLAND WILL HAVE ITS EXCLUSIVE FISHERY ZONE. THE DANES ARE NOT EQUIPPED TO ADEQUATELY PATROL THESE EXTENDED FISHERY ZONES AND ARE SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO IMPROVE THEIR SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY. U.S. INTERESTS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY EXTENSIONS OF THE FISHERIES ZONES, BUT WE CAN EXPECT THAT GREENLAND'S INTEREST IN AN INCREASE OF THEIR SALMON QUOTA WILL CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

1. A DRAFT LAW WHICH WILL PERMIT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE A 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE FOR THE FAEROES AND GREENLAND HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND IS CURRENTLY BEING CIRCULATED TO OTHER DANISH MINISTRIES FOR COMMENT. THE TENTATIVE TIME TABLE FOR THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, WHICH WILL GIVE THE PRIME MINISTER THE AUTHORITY TO EXTEND LIMITS, CALLS FOR ITS SUBMISSION TO THE FOLKETING BY NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR. QUICK APPROVAL IS ANTICIPATED SO THAT ACTION MAY BE TAKEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO IMPOSE A 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1977./-

2. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL DECLARE A 200-MILE FISHERY ZONE FOR THE FAEROES BEGINNING JANUARY 1 BECAUSE POLITICAL PRESSURES IN THE FAEROES INCREASED DURING THE LAST FEW ELECTIONS, WHEN THE 200-MILE QUESTION BECAME A POLITICAL ISSUE AMONG THE RIVAL PARTIES. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, DIRECT CONTROL BY THE FAEROES OF ITS MARINE RESOURCES WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE FAEROES; ANNUAL FISH PRODUCTION AS THE MAJOR PORTION OF THIS PRODUCTION COMES FROM DISTANT WATERS. HOWEVER, CONTROL OF ITS COASTAL WATERS WILL PROVIDE SOME NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE WITH THE EC AND NORWAY WHEN THEY EXTEND THEIR LIMITS. FAEROESE VESSELS WORK IN THE NORTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEA OFF THE U.K. AND ALSO OFF NORWAY, ICELAND AND CANADA. AS THE FAEROESE ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE EC THEY WILL HAVE TO NEGOTIATE SEPARATELY WITH EACH COUNTRY FOR FISHING RIGHTS. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE EXTENDED LIMITS, THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE FAEROES, HAS FILED A NOTICE OF INTENT TO END WITHIN 6 MONTHS THE EXISTING FISHERIES AGREEMENTS WHICH PERMIT THE U.K., FRANCE, BELGIUM, FRG, NORWAY, POLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS,

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3. THE MOVE TO GIVE GREENLAND A 200-MILE LIMIT MUST BE CLOSELY RELATED TO THE ACTION WHICH THE EC TAKES ON THIS MATTER, AS GREENLAND, UNLIKE THE FAEROES, IS BOUND THROUGH DENMARK TO THE EC. IN A 1972 PLEBISCITE, 70 PERCENT OF THE GREENLANDERS VOTED AGAINST JOINING THE EC AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER OR NOT HOME RULE IN GREENLAND (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR 1979 -- SEE REFAIR) WILL AFFECT THE EC RELATIONSHIP. EINAR LEMCHE, UNDER SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY FOR GREENLAND, MENTIONED TO US THAT THE EC COUNCIL HAS ALREADY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE "SPECIAL SOCIAL VALUE" OF GREENLAND'S FISHERIES SO IT APPEARS THERE ARE GOOD PROSPECTS FOR GREENLAND TO HAVE ITS EXCLUSIVE FISHERY ZONE. MR. LEMCHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GREENLANDERS MIGHT MOVE INITIALLY TO PROTECT ONLY THE SHRIMP STOCKS OFF GREENLAND'S WEST COAST AND COD AND REDFISH STOCKS OFF THE EAST COAST. TWENTY YEARS AGO GREENLAND PRODUCED UP TO 400,000 MT/YR OF CODE BUT NOW, DUE TO OVERFISHING AND ECOLOGICAL CHANGES, THE CATCH IS ONLY 10 PERCENT OF THAT FIGURE. IF THE DANISH BIOLOGISTS' RECOMMENDATIONS ARE FOLLOWED WHEN THE CONTROLS COME INTO EFFECT, THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH WILL BE SEVERELY REDUCED, SO MUCH SO, THAT THERE WILL BE LITTLE OR NOTHING LEFT FOR THIRD COUNTRIES UNTIL THE STOCKS RECOVER.

4. AT THE PRESENT TIME DENMARK HAS ONLY 5 HELICOPTER-EQUIPPED PATROL VESSELS, 238 FEET IN LENGTH, FOR PATROLING THE ENTIRE COASTAL WATERS OF DENMARK, THE FAEROES AND GREENLAND. THERE ARE ALSO SEVERAL 35 FOOT, WOODEN-HULLED VESSELS USED FOR INSHORE FISHERIES INSPECTION. THE DANES READILY ADMIT THAT THIS FLEET IS INADEQUATE FOR PATROLING THE EXISTING 12 MILE LIMITS LET ALONE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOUSANDS OF NEW SQUARE MILES AN EXTENDED FISHING ZONE WILL BRING. CURRENT DANISH LAW DOES NOT PERMIT AN EXPANSION OF THIS FLEET. HOWEVER, THE DANES ARE BUSILY SEARCHING FOR A REASONABLE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM.

5. COMMENT. AS U.S. FISHING VESSELS DO NOT WORK IN GREENLAND'S WATERS, U.S. INTEREST IN THE MOVE TO EXTEND LIMITS WILL BE MINIMAL, OTHER THAN TO WELCOME ANOTHER MEMBER TO THE 200-MILE CLUB. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT WITH HOME RULE, THE GREENLANDERS WILL BECOME MORE VOCIFEROUS IN THEIR DEMANDS FOR AN INCREASE IN THEIR SALMON QUOTA WHICH HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED WITH CANADA AND THE U.S. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO HONOR THE EXISTING AGREEMENT BECAUSE THEY RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR GOOD CONSERVATION PRACTICES, BUT THE U.S. SHOULD EXPECT

LOUD AND PERSISTANT DEMANDS FOR A REVIEW OF SALMON STOCKS
WITH A VIEW TOWARD AN INCREASE IN GREENLAND'S QUOTA.
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